

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY
CONTEXT
PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Ref. SEA/IC/CI/1: Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's implementation Programme for the Period 2017-2023

2 November 2020

Dear Mr. Tosovic,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003) concerning the discussions with the Government of Serbia to be organised in line with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions (hearings) with regard to the Committee initiative on the compliance of Serbia with its obligations under the Protocol with respect to the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's Implementation Programme for the Period 2017-2023.

Following the request of Serbia dated 29 July 2020 and taking in account the extraordinary circumstances related to the recent changes in its Government, the Committee agreed to exceptionally organize, on 10 November 2020, a special on-line session for the purpose of holding the hearings referred to above.

Hereby, the Government of Serbia is invited to be represented at the Committee's special on-line session.

The Committee will start by considering the initiative in a closed session, followed by a brief presentation by Serbia and questions by the Committee. The Committee will then consider the initiative again in a closed session to discuss the drafting of its findings and recommendations. Please see attached the annotated provisional agenda for more details and the timeline of the meeting.

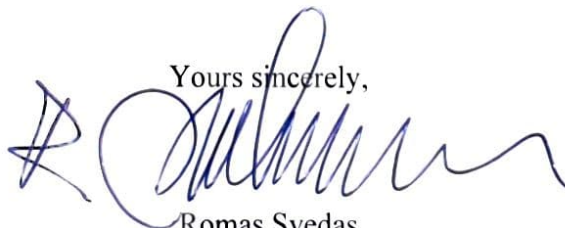
Mr. Miroslav Tosovic
Focal Point for Administrative Matters
regarding the Protocol on SEA
Ministry of Environmental Protection
Belgrade

The delegation of the Government of Serbia should be prepared to discuss its response to the questions previously asked by the Committee in its letter of 17 April 2020. To ensure efficient discussions during the session, I would like to once again request the Government of Serbia to complete its written answers to that letter without delay.

May I also refer to the reasons upon which the Committee had found that there was a profound suspicion of non-compliance and had decided to begin a Committee initiative further to paragraph 6 of the Committee's structure and functions, which are detailed in the Committee's report on its forty-sixth session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2019/6, paras. 94–100) and in its letter to Serbia of 14 January 2020. In view of the Committee, a lack of evidence that Serbia had notified Croatia, Hungary and Romania regarding the Energy Strategy constitutes a profound suspicion of non-compliance with article 10 (1) and (2) of the Protocol. Concerning the transboundary procedure under the Protocol with regard to the Strategy's 2017-2023 implementation programme, the Committee noted that in September 2017, Hungary, had invited Serbia to agree on the language regime of the procedure under article 10 (4) of the Protocol. As of 31 May 2019, the requests of Hungary had not been addressed by Serbia, hindering its participation in consultations as provided for by article 10 (3) of the Protocol before the adoption of the Programme. Moreover, further to the available information, the Committee found that the Programme had been adopted in October 2017 and that the potentially affected Parties, including Hungary and Montenegro, had not been informed of the adoption of the Programme in accordance with article 11 (2).

Finally, you are kindly requested to confirm to the secretariat the participation of Serbia in the Committee's special session and to provide it with the composition of Serbian delegation as soon as possible and no later than 6 November 2020, to enable the secretariat to make all necessary arrangement and tests of equipment.

Yours sincerely,



Romas Svedas

Chair of the Implementation Committee

Enclosures:

1. Annotated provisional agenda.
2. Letter from the Committee's Chair to Serbia concerning its Committee Initiative SEA/IC/CI/1: Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's implementation Programme for the Period 2017–2023, dated 17 April 2020.